



ROCK VEINS, GLACIER BAY NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Ansel Adams

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*November
1951*

Miscellany

"Conservation of our Natural Resources" is offered this year in Los Angeles, as an evening course for adults. It was instigated by Sierra Club member Al Gustus, of the City School Districts Auxiliary Services Division in Los Angeles. It is reported that the course has started with so much enthusiasm that a similar course is planned for Pasadena.

A Shot in the Dark? Can anyone supply the missing numbers of *Bolletino della Societa Geografica Italiana*? The library has recently acquired many of the numbers necessary toward the completion of its file of this bulletin. Those numbers still missing, however, are: 1943, July-August (No. 4); 1947, January-June (No. 1-3); 1948, January-June (No. 1-3); 1949, January-June (No. 1-3).

One High Sierra trail rider's enthusiasm has led him to put down in a little book some of his experiences, some of his techniques, and some of his thoughts. Privately printed in 1950, this little green-covered volume *High Sierra Adventure*, by Brooks D. Gist, was given by him to the Sierra Club. It will bring back to the reader many memories and refreshing pictures of the mountains. Part of it is in journal form, of dif-

ferent trips he has taken, always with "a novice or two in the party to introduce to the plain everyday enjoyment of camp life." He writes with enjoyment of campfires, of packing, of the animals, the trees, and on many other phases of mountain trail and camp life. There are photographs and drawings, and an occasional poem, all showing the writer's love and appreciation of the mountains and his belief that they are a necessary part of life.

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3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

DAVID R. BROWER, Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of September, 1951.

(Seal) ALBERT K. MOLENDYK

(My commission expires December 28, 1951.)

THE SIERRA CLUB, founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities, under the committees listed below, to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and to preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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Sierra Club Bulletin

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NUMBER 9

...TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE PRIMEVAL MOUNTAIN SCENE...

For the November Record

Why Accidents?

The report on Alpine Accidents in 1950 of the Safety Committee of the American Alpine Club was recently published. This committee was formed four years ago in the hope that the analysis of representative accidents would indicate significant trends, and could aid in the development of more direct and effective means of minimizing such accidents.

It is believed that nearly all the fatal accidents are reported, although probably only a fraction of the nonfatal accidents are brought to the attention of the committee. The report gives a table showing the last five years and the number of known accidents in each year, listed categorically as: number of fatalities reported; number of those fatalities which may be considered direct consequences of mountaineering; number involving hikers, unwary scramblers, etc.

Although data are still too few to indicate trends, it can be seen that the total number of fatalities in 1950 was the lowest in the past four years and about half the number reported in 1948—the worst postwar year. There seems to be a noticeable and probably significant decrease in accidents happening to more experienced climbers, but a marked increase in those involving novices or uninitiated persons. It would appear that the postwar excitement and fervor which led many experienced alpinists into carelessness has abated somewhat, but the romance of mountain climbing is attracting many inexperienced people.

The mountaineering and outdoor clubs have all increased enormously in membership since the war. It is their responsibility to do all they can to direct and indoctrinate their members, and other interested people whom they can reach, with the knowledge and preparedness necessary, and to acquaint the public with the realities of mountaineering rather than the drama.

The members of the committee were: Maynard M. Miller, chairman; Ome Daiber (Seattle); John Fralick (Chicago); Has Kraus (New York); Richard M. Leonard (San Francisco); and Hassler Whitney (Boston).

Yosemite Field School

Twenty selected college graduates will have the opportunity to spend the summer in Yosemite National Park under the tutelage of the National Park Service Naturalist Division. They will receive intensive, varied training in the presentation of natural and human history to the public, and in the techniques of interpretation—on nature walks, with children, at campfires. Also considered will be related matter such as museum methods and the use of museum and library materials. Twelve days will be spent in the High Sierra, an opportunity for maturing, exhilarating personal experience. Students pay own expenses, plus modest incidental fee. Application deadline, February 28. For prospectus, address: Director, Yosemite Field School, Box 545, Yosemite National Park, California.

Letters

STEREO

Los Angeles, Oct. 11

EDITOR—In the February *SCB* there appeared a stereoscopic photograph of Grinnell Creek and Lakes. It was mentioned that most of the High Sierra is available in this form. I should like to know how to obtain a series covering the general area of the Muir Trail from Bishop Pass south to Mount Whitney.

AGNES B. SOUTHAM

• So would we. The only source we know of—the U.S. Forest Service, 600 Sansome Street, San Francisco—has excellent coverage in 3-D air photos, but only as far south along the Sierra crest as the vicinity of Glacier Divide. Funds ran out before Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks were flown. Some private coverage has been flown to the south. Who knows by whom?

MATTERHORN

Berkeley, November 24

Editor—Below is a copy of a letter written to the U.I.A.A. in response to the suggestion contained in the October *SCB*.

I hope that many other members will respond to that appeal and that the club will take any steps possible within its competence to protest this proposed cable railway.

HERMAN THAL-LARSEN

President, Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme

Boul. des Tranchees 16

Geneva

My dear Sir,

This letter is written in the hope that you will present it together with the many others which you must be receiving in protest against the proposed cable railway up the Matterhorn.

Even here in California, as in all the world, the Matterhorn stands as the great symbol of mountaineering, of the truth that achievement must be earned. It is unthinkable that the King of Mountains should be tamed with a cable, that its summit could be bought with the price of a teleferique ticket. It is well in this age of commercialism to retain at least a few reminders that not all can be purchased for money.

The Sierra Club of California, of which I am a member, fights unceasingly in this country to hold back the encroachments which are constantly proposed against the beauties of Nature.

Its efforts often result in success. I wish you very well in your fight to restrain the company which is seeking to commercialize this mountain.

This past summer I viewed the Matterhorn with awe and wonder. Thousands of climbers and mountain lovers the world over must be hoping that its summit can continue unfettered by a cable line which would tie it to a Breuil which scarce seems to deserve a place at its foot.

HERMAN THAL-LARSEN

Los Angeles, October 10

Editor—The apologetic note for stressing the club's publications seems to me entirely uncalled for. The literature produced by the club seems to me outstanding in the quality of both the material and the mechanical make up. The thanks of all the club members are certainly due those who are producing such a splendid set of bulletins.

H. M. HALL

• Our thanks

Are you tired of hearing about dirty summer camps, and how awful some people are, and what are we going to do about it? Well, let's talk about the winter then, and the clean white snow. Did you know that there are some of us (yes, Sierra Club members) who travel in the wintertime on the top of that clean white snow, who forget that the snow will melt away, and the cans or orange peels put out of sight in January will be very visible in July? Yes, some of us still do.

The remedy? The simplest for the tourer—one-day or longer—and for the half-day ampler too—is to take our empty cans and other trash back with us in our rucksacks. We were able to carry the full cans—how much easier to carry them empty.

AH WILDERNESS DEPARTMENT

We landed by airplane at Tunnel Meadow on the South Fork of the Kern. Then we backpacked into the meadow country . . .

When we got back to Tunnel for the airplane . . . we flew past the summit of Olancha Peak so close we could see the pebbles on it, then we dropped swiftly down to the desert and our jeep.

From account in *Southern Sierran*
Now if we can just eliminate the backpacking.

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN, NOVEMBER, 1951

Federation Holds Annual Convention

More than 175 persons gathered on September 1 at Mazama Lodge on the southern slope of Mount Hood for the twentieth convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. Most of the member clubs were represented at the three-day meeting. Sierran John R. Barnard held the reins as Federation President, and a number of other Sierra Club members were present. Among the other participants were Conrad Wirth, Associate Director of the National Park Service; Herbert Stone, new Regional Forester for Region 6; Bill Parke, Jim Langdon and Lloyd Olsen of the Forest Service; and David Charlton and O. K. De Witt representing the Izaak Walton League.

Important business relating to various aspects of conservation was considered during three sessions, and 13 major resolutions were adopted. Of these, seven dealt with problems of a general character:

1. It was decided that any attempt to consider national parks as so-called mass recreational centers should be resisted as infringing on the integrity of the National Park system.

2. House Resolution 5023, now before Congress, was heartily endorsed. It would prohibit "construction, operation or maintenance of any dam, reservoir, power plant or other project for the storage or delivery of water within, or which may adversely affect, National Parks or Monuments."

3. Also endorsed was House Resolution 565, providing that 10% of all money received from the National Forests be made available to the U.S. Forest Service for recreational resources.

4. The U.S. Forest Service was requested to re-examine its definition of Wild and Wilderness Areas with respect to the half-mile buffer zone required between such areas and any road. It is hoped that such buffer zones may on occasion be included within a given Wild or Wilderness Area.

5. The teaching and broadcasting of conservation education was applauded.

6. Local meetings of the Federation, to be organized by state vice-presidents for the purpose of developing interest in conservation problems, were encouraged.

7. Support was pledged to the National Park directors in resisting any attack upon the National Park system.

These resolutions dealt with more specific matters:

1. Irrevocable opposition to the construction of the Echo Park and Split Mountain dams in Dinosaur National Monument was reiterated.

2. Opposition was again expressed to any exchange of land which would give the San Jacinto Park Authority or the San Jacinto Tramway right-of-way into the San Jacinto State Park.

3. It was requested that Warner Valley in southeast Oregon be set aside as a resting and nesting area for waterfowl on the Pacific flyway.

4. Construction of dams on the main McKenzie River in Oregon was opposed.

5. Legislation was urged which would separate surface and underground rights on publicly owned lands, to correct abuses in the mining laws (particularly flagrant of late along the Rogue River). Senate Bill 109 has already recognized this problem as it pertains to the Kaibab National Forest.

6. With regard to reclassification of the Three Sisters Primitive Area to the status of a Wilderness Area, it was decided to accept the western boundary (along Horse Creek-Eugene Creek) proposed by the U.S. Forest Service, with the understanding that the 55,000 acres lying to the west of this boundary, and now included in the Primitive Area, be retained as a Limited Area pending further study by certain scientific groups and by the Service concerning its possible later disposition.

This last resolution was a major concern of the convention and brought forth a prolonged and spirited discussion. A considerable difference of opinion has developed among conservationists over the proper disposition of the disputed 55,000 acres. Scientists from two Oregon universities feel that this western section is extremely valuable for scientific study and should be retained in its natural state.

President Barnard reported on various activities of the federation during the past year

and on the fate of the 1950 resolutions. On the whole, considerable progress has been made.

The following officers were elected for the year 1951-1952:

Arthur Winder (Mountaineers), president; Joseph Momyer (Sierra Club), vice-president for California; Sam Deal (California Alpine Club), deputy vice-president

for California; Iva Jarvis (Angoras), vice-president for Oregon; Harry Goodro (Wasatch Mountain Club), vice-president for Utah; Larry Upson (Inter-Mountain Alpine Club), vice-president for Washington; Glen A. DeGroff (Trails Club of Oregon), treasurer; Margaret Pepper (Chemeketans), secretary; Rosella McCune (Mount St. Helens Club), editor of the *Quarterly*.

Bidders Sought for Mammoth Skiing

The Forest Service has announced that it plans to accept applications for development of the Mammoth Mountain ski area in Mono County, the deadline for applications being April 30, 1953. Most skiers from southern California know Mammoth Mountain well. It is in Inyo National Forest, just southeast of Yosemite National Park, and rises to an elevation of 11,034 feet. It has a long powder-snow season, some fine open slopes, and scenic backgrounds to skiing that are hard to surpass anywhere.

The Forest Service proposes that the mountain should be developed in three units—unit 1 on the north slope, and units 2 and 3 on the east slopes of the mountain. Also in the eventual plan is a resort hotel, but this

will come later on. In Unit 1 development as foreseen by the Forest Service there will be runs better than a mile in length with vertical descent of approximately 1,300 feet in addition to unexcelled ski terrain in the vicinity. There would be a chair-lift at least 3,500 feet long, with a vertical rise of 925 feet to an upper terminus of 9,875 feet elevation, beyond which would be a T-bar or similar lift rising to 10,300 feet.

The Forest Service has drafted general plans and must approve all details of final construction and layout. The firm or individual who has the necessary experience and financing to undertake the quarter of a million dollar development would receive a term permit for a period of twenty-five years.

Sierra Club Membership—Still Climbing

Chapter	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
San Francisco Bay	3175	3301	3507	3589	3604
Southern California	1767	1750	1862	1890	1913
Loma Prieta	387	410	444	462	472
Mother Lode	174	202	212	219	252
Riverside	75	84	78	90	98
San Diego .....	....	54	87	96	130
Atlantic .....	....	....	....	....	128
General	285	275	321	426	399
Total	5863	6076	6511	6772	6996

[NOTE: The 1951 total is as of November 1, immediately after the elimination of names of those who had not paid their dues for 1950-51 as required by the By-Laws. The total membership figure exceeded 7,000 before this recapitulation was circulated by the Secretary.]

Limited Time Only
SPECIAL SALE OF BOOKS

Until June 30, 1952, the sale prices listed below will be in effect.
At the end of that time, the original list prices will be restored.

CALIFORNIA PICTORIAL, by Jeanne van Nostrand and Edith Coulter.
A History in Contemporary Pictures, 1786 to 1859, with Descriptive
Notes on Pictures and Artists. 162 pages. 69 plates. 1948. List price,
\$10.00. **Sale price, \$5.00**

CHINA TRADE DAYS IN CALIFORNIA, edited by D. Mackenzie
Brown. Selected Letters from the Thompson Papers, 1832-1863.
94 pages. Illus. 1947. List price, \$3.00. **Sale price, \$1.50**

CITY OF THE GOLDEN FIFTIES, by Pauline Jacobson. 290 pages.
1941. List price, \$3.00. **Sale price, \$1.50**

FRANCIS DRAKE AND THE CALIFORNIA INDIANS, 1579, by Rob-
ert F. Heizer. 52 pages. Illus. 1947. List price, \$2.00. **Sale price, \$1.00**

GREATER AMERICA: Essays in Honor of Herbert Eugene Bolton.
724 pages. Front. Maps. 1945. List price, \$6.00. **Sale price, \$2.75**

**HISTORICAL MEMOIR OF PIMERIA ALTA: A Contemporary Ac-
count of the Beginnings of California, Sonora, and Arizona**, by Euse-
bio Francisco Kino. Translated and edited by Herbert Eugene Bolton.
710 pages. Illus. Two vols. in one. 1948. List price, \$10.00.
Sale price, \$7.50

THE LOS ANGELES STAR, 1851-1864, by William B. Rice. The Begin-
nings of Journalism in Southern California. Edited by John Walton
Caughey. 316 pages. 1947. List price, \$5.00. **Sale price, \$2.00**

MANUAL OF SKI MOUNTAINEERING, edited by David R. Brower.
Compiled under the auspices of the National Ski Association of
America. 2d ed. 2d printing. 202 pages. Illus. 1947. List price, \$2.50.
Sale price, \$1.75

RUSHING FOR GOLD, edited by John Walton Caughey. Eleven articles
on various phases of the gold rush. 112 pages. 1949. List price, \$2.75.
Sale price, \$1.25

YOSEMITE, THE BIG TREES, AND THE HIGH SIERRA, by Francis
P. Farquhar. A Selective Bibliography. 104 pages. Illus. 1948. List
price, \$7.50. **Sale price, \$3.75**

Buy these books at your bookstore or from the Sierra Club.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

Address: Berkeley 4, California

Rates at Clair Tappaan

Abundant snow, a new manager, expert ski instruction, improved facilities, a chance to ice skate, lots going on in the nearby areas, scheduled tours and tests—all this is in store at CTL this winter, starting right now.

The Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee has announced the new (and reasonable) rates and has added a rule or two for the benefit of all; here they are in brief:

Winter full-day rates, \$1 per unit (any meal or a night's lodging)—guests \$1.20.

Make reservations (not more than a month ahead of time) at the club office in San Francisco for week ends of at least \$5 (five consecutive units)—guests \$6. Arrange for shorter stays with the manager at the lodge, but check first with the club office.

Partial-day rates (for less than four consecutive units): breakfast, dinner, lodging, \$1.25 each; lunch, \$1—guests add 25¢ per unit.

Flat rates: \$25 (guests \$30) per full week; \$18 for five week days.

Cancellation charges: 50¢ if cancelled by 5 p.m. the Tuesday before your week end; \$1 by 5 p.m. Wednesday; \$2 by 5 p.m. Thursday, after which there's no refund.

Hut Tours

Peter Grubb Hut and Benson Cabin may be used without charge if members clear first with the CTL manager and supply their own food. Figure \$3 per day if you take food from CTL commissary. See subsequent SCB for notes on scheduled tours to these huts and elsewhere.

Snow Camping

The following rules have been carefully pro and coned and deemed good: Snow camping in the immediate vicinity of CTL (within about 100 yards) is permitted provided (a) tents, igloos, and snow caves are at least 25 feet from building walls and off the ski paths; (b) snow campers register with the lodge manager and pay 25 cents per night per person (children accompanying

parents and below membership age, free) and volunteer with the manager for a miscellaneous-jobs work shift—all this so that they'll feel they're doing their part in exchange for the warmth, light, and hot water they'll inevitably be attracted to); and (c) snow campers leave no debris for others to clean up after the snow melts.

See later SCBs for the schedule of guided ski-camping and ski-mountaineering trips, on which the cost is even less than 25 cents per night, elements of the ski-mountaineering test can be passed, there is no temptation to buy all-day lift tickets, and the most beautiful part of the wintry Sierra can be seen.

Washington's Birthday special: For the three-day week end, February 22-24, Thursday night to Sunday dinner, \$12 (minimum). Reserve any time after January 1 (cancellation deadline, February 18).

WAMPLER TRAIL TRIPS

SCHEDULE FOR 1952

SPRING—

March into June

HAVASU CANYON

Minimum trip 8 days, from \$115

SUMMER—

July into September

JOHN MUIR TRAIL

Minimum trip 7 days, from \$60

FALL—

September through October

HAVASU CANYON

Minimum trip 8 days, from \$115

For details and reservations write:

JOE WAMPLER

1940 Hearst Ave., Berkeley 9, California

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